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13.	Shri Avinash Chandra, former DG, Hydro Carbons	Engineers India Limited
14.	Shri Rajat Gupta, Adviser, Board of Harvard Business School	Engineers India Limited
15.	Or. Pritam Singh, Director, MDI,	Engineers India Limited
16.	Shri P.K. Bora, former Chief Secretary, Govt, of Assam	Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited
17.	Shri M.P. Bezbaruah, former Secretary to Govt, of India	Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited
18.	Shri. J.P. Rajkhowa, former Chief Secretary, Assam	Numaligarh Refinery Limited
19.	Prof. Shekhar Chaudhuri, Director, MM Calcutta	Namuligarh Refinery Limited
20.	Prof. Atul Sarma, former Professor, Indian Statistical Institute	Oil India Limited
21.	Prof. T.S. Vijayraghavan, former Secretary Oil India Limited to Govt, of India	
22.	Shri P.G. Mankad, former Finance Secretary, Govt, of India	ONGC Videsh Limited
23.	Shri Rajat Gupta, Ex-Mg. Partner Mckinsey & Co.	ONGC Videsh Limited

Diversion of Domestic LPG for Commercial Purposes

686. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic LPG consumers in Karnataka;

(b) the number of LPG consumers in Bangalore city;

(c) the quantum in metric tonnes of cooking gas required every month;

(d) whether there is any shortage of domestic LPG in Karnataka;

(e) whether the new domestic LPG connections have been stopped in Karnataka;

(f) whether Government are aware that nearly 25 per cent of the LPG meant for domestic consumption is being diverted to hotels, restaurants and automobile filling stations; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to stop this pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have 47.82 lakh LPG domestic consumers in the State of Karnataka including 17.88 lakh in Bangalore city.

(c) The average quantity of LPG required in Karnataka is about 49,586 Metric Tonne (MT) per month.

(d) and (e) Demand for LPG in the country is met by a combination of domestic production and imports. Atemporary shortage of LPG emerged in September 2005 when Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), the single largest domestic supplier of LPG, announced a shut down of their Fluidized Catalytic Cracker (FCC) unit at Jamnagar for maintenance work with effect from October 2005, at just about the time global LPG supplies became tight, domestic production was affected by the fire at Mumbai High and partly on account of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on US refineries. This upset the plans made by our Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to effect imports in time to offset the anticipated shortage in supplies on account of the RIL shut down.

In view of this, OMCs have restricted the release of new connections in country from September 2005 onward. The situation is expected to normalize further by the end of November 2005 on the restoration of production in RIL's refinery. In view of improvement in situation, OMCs have decided to resume release of new connections from 1st December 2005.

(f) and (g) While there are no estimates of diversion of subsidized domestic LPG for commercial purposes, the possibilities of such diversion can not be ruled out on account of a sizeable price difference between subsidized domestic LPG and commercial LPG cylinders. The following

measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:—

(i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order.

(ii) State Governments are alerted from time to time to crack down the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

(iii) As per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for LPG distributors, in case of establishment of any diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is take against the distributor:

(a) Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1 st offence.

(b) Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

(c) Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

(iv) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributor's godown, delivery point as well as enroute to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. Action against the erring distributor is taken in terms of MDG/or Distributorship Agreement.

Participation in Qatar—Pakistan Pipeline Project

†687. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of Iran—India Gas pipe line scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that Govemment are considering to move back from this scheme;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.